

CHINA



MAIL.

Established February, 1845.

With which is incorporated The "Hongkong Evening Mail and Shipping List." Published every Evening.

VOL. XXXII. No. 4045. 第五十六年六月十五日

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1876.

日四月十五日

PRICE, \$24 PER ANNUM.

AGENTS FOR THE CHINA MAIL.

LONDON.—F. ALGAR, 8, Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, George Street, 30, Cornhill, Gordon & Gotech, 1, Jardine, E. C. Bates, Henry & Co., 4, Old Jewry, E. C. SAMUEL DEACON & Co., 160 & 164, Leadenhall Street.

NEW YORK.—ANDREW WIND, 133, Nassau Street.

AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, AND NEW ZEALAND.—GORDON & GOTCH, Melbourne and Sydney.

SAN FRANCISCO and American Ports generally.—BEAN & BLACK, San Francisco.

CHINA.—SWATOW, QUONLOU & CAMPBELL, Amoy, GUZI & Co., Foochow, HEDGE & Co., Shanghai, LANE, CRAWFORD & Co., and KELLY & Co., Manila, C. HENKES & Co., Macao, L. A. DA GAMA.

BANKS.

COMPTOIR D'ESCOMPTÉ DE PARIS.
INCORPORATED BY NATIONAL DECREES OF 7TH AND 8TH MARCH, 1848.
—and—
BY IMPERIAL DECREES OF 25TH JULY, 1854,
AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1866.

Recognized by the
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF
30TH APRIL, 1862.

France. A Sterling.
PAID-UP CAPITAL, ... \$80,000,000 8,200,000
RESERVE FUND, ... \$30,000,000 800,000

HEAD OFFICE.—14, Rue Bergère, Paris.
LONDON AGENCY.—144, Leadenhall St., E.C.

AGENCIES.—At Nantes, Lyons, Marseilles, Brussels, Bombay, Calcutta, St. Denis (Ile de la Réunion), Hongkong, Shanghai and Yokohama.

London BANKERS.—Bank of England, Union Bank of London.

HONGKONG AGENCY.

INTEREST ALLOWED

ON Current Deposit Account at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, on the monthly minimum balances, and on Fixed Deposits at rates which may be ascertained at the offices.

CHR. DE GUIGNÉ,
Manager.

Offices in Hongkong: Bank Buildings, Queen's Road, Hongkong, May 14, 1876.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL, ... \$15,000,000 Dollars.
RESERVE FUND, ... \$10,000,000 Dollars.

COURT OF DIRECTORS.
Chairman—E. R. BELLIUS, Esq.
Deputy Chairman—A. D. ANDRE, Esq.

J. F. CORDES, Esq. S. W. POMEROY, Esq.
H. HOPPIUS, Esq. F. D. SASSON, Esq.
A. MOYER, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER

Hongkong, ... JAMES GREIG, Esq.
Manager.
Shanghai, ... EWEN CAMERON, Esq.
LONDON BANKERS.—London and County Bank.

INTEREST ALLOWED

ON Current Deposit Accounts at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum on the daily balance.

On Fixed Deposits:—
For 3 months, 2 per cent. per annum.
" 6 " 4 per cent. " "
" 12 " 5 per cent. " "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on London, and the chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

JAMES GREIG,
Chief Manager.

Offices of the Corporation,
No. 1, Queen's Road East, Hongkong, February 17, 1876.

Notices of Firms.

NOTICE

M. THEOPHILUS GEE LINSTEAD is authorized to sign our Firm in Hongkong and Canton.

PURDON & Co., China, June 1, 1876.

NOTICE

M. H. MUNSTER SCHULZ has been authorized to sign our Firm per procuratum.

WIELER & Co., Hongkong, June 1, 1876.

NOTICE

THE Undersigned has been appointed SURVEYOR to LLOYD'S REGISTER at this Port.

R. H. CAIRNS, 1, Club Chambers, Hongkong, April 20, 1876.

Notices of Firms.

NOTICE

I have this day authorized Mr J. Y. V. Shaw to sign my name per procuratum.

A. MAIG. HEATON,
Hongkong, January 1, 1876.

NOTICE

We have established branches of our Firm at Halphong and Hanoi. Mr E. CONSTANTIN is authorized to sign by procuratum in Tonquin.

LANDSTEIN & Co., Hongkong, December 31, 1875.

NOTICE

The Undersigned have entered into Co-partnership from the First day of January, 1876, in the Business of Shipbrokers at this Port, under the style of MORAN & RAY.

A. G. MORRIS,
E. C. RAY,
Bank Buildings, Hongkong, February 8, 1876.

For Sale.

SAYLE & Co.
WE beg to call special attention to our Show-room and Ladies' Outfitting Departments.

We are offering a fine assortment of Japanese Silks, which will wear well, at 65 cents per yard, worth \$1.

Summer Dresses:

Satin Striped Poplins.
Figured Poplins.

Fancy and Plain Grenadines.
Black and Fancy Gauzes.

Fancy Silks. Black Silks.
Niagara Striped Muslins.

White Brillantes.
A lot of Lace Goods at less than half price.

Made-up Wrappers and Costumes.
Embroidered Skirts.

Ladies' and Children's Under-clothing.

Straw Hats and Bonnets.
Feathers and Flowers.

Ladies' and Children's Hosiery.

Our Dressmaking Department is under the supervision of a Court Dressmaker.

Our Millinery Department is under the supervision of a West End Milliner.

SAYLE & Co., VICTORIA EXCHANGE, Queen's Road & Stanley Street.

FOR SALE—\$4.

DOLLAR and STERLING EX-
CHANGE TABLES, from \$s. 4d. to 6s. 4d.

BY
GEORGE MACKIE,
LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.,
Hongkong, June 10, 1876.

FOR SALE.

200 Casks CLARET from BORDEAUX.
Apply to LANDSTEIN & Co.,
Hongkong, March 10, 1876.

FOR SALE.

TAKASIMA COTTERY.
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Agents.

FOR SALE, Large Takasima Coal, at \$8 per ton, ex Godown. Small Takasima Coal, \$6 per ton, ex Godown.

Apply to T. G. GLOVER,
No. 7, Queen's Road, and at East Point, Hongkong, May 16, 1876.

FOR SALE.

W. M. CHILLINGWORTH & SON'S CROWN SHERRIES and PORTS.
R. P. ATKINS & Co.'S PORT.
BAKE'S ALE, in Quarts and Pints.
W. YOUNGER & Co.'S Edinburgh STRONG ALE, in Hogheads.

W. H. NOTLEY,
Hongkong, June 9, 1876.

FOR SALE.

A NUMBER of NEW IRON WATER
TANKS, 4 Feet square.

Apply to CAPTAIN on BOARD,
American Bark "American Lloyd,"
Hongkong, May 30, 1876.

Intimations.

HAINAN.

A PHOTOGRAPH of the PASSAGES made by the R. C. "LING FENG" to HOI-HOW by the direct route, can be obtained at Mr A. M. G. Wyndham Street, at cost price, viz. 75 Cents.

Hongkong, June 14, 1876.

Intimations.

THE MEDICAL HALL,

37, Queen's Road, Hongkong.

ESTABLISHED 1853.

TH. KOFFER, Proprietor.

Hongkong, April 28, 1876.

HONGKONG.

Chs. J. GAUPP & Co.,

WATCHMAKERS & JEWELLERS,

38, Queen's Road, Hongkong.

NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS,

CHRONOMETERS,

&c., &c., &c.

ADVERTISERS

IS

OBVIOUS.

ADVANTAGE TO

ADVERTISERS

IS

OBVIOUS.

NOTICE

IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE REDUCTION OF THE PRICE OF THE

"SHANGHAI COURIER AND CHINA GAZETTE."

IT WILL BE THE

CHEAPEST DAILY PAPER IN CHINA

and as a large

INCREASE OF CIRCULATION

MAY BE CONFIDENTLY ANTICIPATED, THE

ADVANTAGE TO

ADVERTISERS

IS

OBVIOUS.

NOTICE

THE OFFICES of the PACIFIC MAIL

STEAMSHIP COMPANY have THIS DAY

been REMOVED to the Premises No. 16,

PRAYA CENTRAL, lately occupied by

Messrs. HOLLIDAY, WISE & CO.

G. B. EMORY, Agent.

HONGKONG.

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G. B. EMORY, Agent.

HONGKONG.

NOTICE

THE OFFICES of the PACIFIC MAIL

STEAMSHIP COMPANY have THIS DAY

Notices to Consignees.

S. S. ESMERALDA, FROM MANILA.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo per above Steamer are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed and stored in the Godowns of the Undersigned at their risk.

Goods remaining undelivered after the 16th Instant will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

A. MACG. HEATON,
Agent.

Hongkong, June 12, 1876. *je16*

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

S. S. PEIH.

NOTICE.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo per S. S. "Gangs" from London, in connection with the above Steamer, are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed and stored at their risk at the Company's Godowns, whence delivery may be obtained from WEDNESDAY, the 14th instant, at 10 a.m.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded on, unless intimation is received from the Consignees, before Noon To-morrow, the 13th instant, requesting it to be landed here.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the Undersigned.

Goods remaining undelivered after MONDAY, the 19th Inst., at Noon, will be subject to rent and landing charges.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

G. DE CHAMPEAUX,
Acting Agent.

Hongkong, June 13, 1876. *je19*

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

CONSIGNEES per Company's Steamer "Sardon," are hereby notified that the Cargo is being discharged into craft, and landed at the Godowns of the Undersigned, in both cases it will lie at Consignees' risk. The Cargo will be ready for delivery from Godown on and after the 16th June, 1876.

Goods undelivered after the 23rd June, 1876, will be subject to Rent.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents.

Hongkong, June 14, 1876. *je23*

S. S. OROCUS,
FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

THE above Steamer having arrived, Consignees of Cargo by her are hereby requested to send their Bills of Lading for countersignature to the Undersigned, and to take immediate delivery of their Goods.

Cargo impeding the discharge will be at once landed and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.,
Hongkong, June 11, 1876.

NORWEGIAN BARK FASAN,
FROM NEW YORK.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo by the above named Vessel are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading to the Undersigned for countersignature, and to take immediate delivery of their Goods.

Cargo impeding the discharge of the Vessel will be landed and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

VOGEL, HAGEDORN & CO.,
Agents.

Hongkong, May 30, 1876.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNNEES.

CONSIGNEES of the following Cargo are requested to send in their Bills of Lading to the Undersigned for countersignature, and take immediate delivery. This Cargo has been landed and stored at their risk and expense.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

G. DE CHAMPEAUX,
Acting Agent.

Ex Hoogly, March 10, 1876.

R. M. No. 29, One case Merchandise,
T & L., from Marseilles.

Ex Ava, May 2, 1876.

C. F. T. 106 bags Gum from Bombay.

Ex Amazon, May 14, 1876.

P. G. C. 181 bags Gum and 4 cases Vermilion.

C. F. P. 4 boxes Merchandise.

C. J. L. 3 bags Gum.

No marks 2 Raisins.

S. S. Anadyr.

G. R. No. 1/42—42 boxes Wines.

H. K. H. 6885/6887—3 cases Merchandise.

Hongkong, June 9, 1876.

To-day's Advertisements.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to sell by Public Auction at the Godowns, No. 7, Queen's Road Central, on

To-day's Advertisements.

FOR AMOY & TAMSUI.

The British Steamship

"LEONOR."

Captain M. Youn, will be despatched for the above Ports on SUNDAY, the 18th instant, at 10 a.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUGLAS, LAFRAIK & CO.

Hongkong, June 15, 1876. *je18*

FOR COOKTOWN.

The British Steamer

"MECCA."

Captain Johnson, will leave this

for the above Port on MONDAY,

the 19th instant, at 2 p.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

HOP KEE.

Hongkong, June 16, 1876. *je19*

FOR SAIGON.

The British Steamship

"PENEDO."

Captain John Cain, will leave for

the above Port on MONDAY,

the 19th instant, at 4 p.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

AH YON.

Hongkong, June 16, 1876. *je19*

FROM LONDON AND SINGAPORE.

THE S. S. Glenroy, Captain Taylor,

having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are

hereby informed that their Goods are

being landed at their risk at their

Godowns, whence delivery may be

obtained from WEDNESDAY, the 14th

instant, at 10 a.m.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded on,

unless intimation is received from the

Consignees, before Noon To-morrow, the 13th

instant, requesting it to be landed here.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

the Undersigned.

Goods remaining undelivered after MONDAY, the 19th Inst., at Noon, will be subject to rent and landing charges.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

G. DE CHAMPEAUX,

Acting Agent.

Hongkong, June 13, 1876. *je19*

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

CONSIGNEES per Company's Steamer

"Sardon," are hereby notified that

the Cargo is being discharged into craft,

and landed at the Godowns of the Undersigned

in both cases it will lie at Consignees' risk.

The Cargo will be ready for

delivery from Godown on and after the 16th

June, 1876.

Goods undelivered after the 23rd June, 1876, will be subject to Rent.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents.

Hongkong, June 14, 1876. *je23*

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Consignees of Cargo by her are hereby

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and to take immediate delivery of their Goods.

Cargo impeding the discharge will be at

once landed and stored at Consignees' risk

and expense.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.,

Hongkong, June 11, 1876.

NORWEGIAN BARK FASAN,

FROM NEW YORK.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo by the above

named Vessel are hereby requested to

send in their Bills of Lading to the

Undersigned for countersignature, and

to take immediate delivery of their Goods.

Cargo impeding the discharge of the

Vessel will be landed and stored at

Consignees' risk and expense.

VOGEL, HAGEDORN & CO.,

Agents.

Hongkong, May 30, 1876.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNNEES.

CONSIGNEES of the following Cargo

are requested to send in their Bills of

Lading to the Undersigned for counter-

signature, and take immediate delivery.

This Cargo has been landed and stored

at their risk and expense.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

G. DE CHAMPEAUX,

Acting Agent.

Ex Hoogly, March 10, 1876.

R. M. No. 29, One case Merchandise,

T & L., from Marseilles.

Ex Ava, May 2, 1876.

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No marks 2 Raisins.

S. S. Anadyr.

G. R. No. 1/42—42 boxes Wines.

H. K. H. 6885/6887—3 cases Merchandise.

Hongkong, June 9, 1876.

To-day's Advertisements.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instruc-

tions to sell by Public Auction on

account of whom it may concern, on

TUESDAY,

the 27th June, 1876, at Noon, at his

Office, Marine House, Queen's Road, —

Nearhus, was fined 25 cents for being drunk and incapable at Praya East.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.
Hu Ayp was charged with cruelty to animals, in that he had skinned frogs while alive. Fined \$2.

LARCENY FROM THE PERSON.
Cheong Akum, a goat-herd, was charged with stealing a silver ring from the neck of a child six years of age. Remanded till the 19th.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CHINESE INSURANCE CO.

To the Editor of the "CHINA MAIL."

Hongkong, 15th June, 1876.

Sir.—Nine months ago a rather acrimonious controversy was carried on in the papers regarding the winding-up or non-winding-up of the above-named Company. It appeared to me that those shareholders (and there were such) who had bought shares on the faith of that article of association which prescribed the winding-up of the Company on the 30th June 1876, were unfairly sought to be deprived of their proportion of reserve fund, which would then require to be divided by the winding-up of the Company.

However, there is still Balm in Gilead. The Companies Act, and the articles of association of this Company, both prescribe that when a special resolution has been passed by a general meeting, it must be confirmed by a second general meeting to be held at an interval of not less than fourteen days after the first meeting. No amount of special pleading can alter an interval of fourteen days into on the fourteenth day. The special resolution to continue the Company without winding up was passed on the 22nd September and the confirmatory meeting was held on the 6th Oct. last, or precisely on the fourteenth day. The article of association directing the winding up of the Company on the 30th June 1876 has consequently never been legally altered, and it would appear that the Directors must take the necessary steps at once to carry out the winding up of the Company on the 30th inst.

Yours faithfully,

LAY FOR THEM.

China.

SHANGHAI.

(Courier.)

A curious instance of how Chinese mandarins prey upon each other occurred some time ago at Szechow. An official who formerly held the post of Tao-tai at Ningpo, having retired from business with an enormous fortune, built himself a handsome house in Szechow city and laid out extensive pleasure grounds. Through the plot of land, however, which he purchased, there ran a little narrow thoroughfare, public property of course, but still never used by pedestrians. The price of this lane or footpath was naturally a subject of much annoyance to the ex-Tao-tai, and one day, without saying anything to anybody, he quietly annexed it. No notice was taken of it for twelve months, at the expiration of which however a number of his fellow-citizens represented the affair to the fuzhou. This gentleman swooped down upon the *rentier*, and, scenting prey, mulct him in a trifling fine of a hundred thousand taels, a certain portion of which—one-third, we believe—was divided among the informants. Many persons (including ourselves) felt some sympathy with the Tao-tai on first hearing this part of the story; but our ardour cooled when informed that the victim had himself extorted this very sum, in an equally unscrupulous manner, during his tenure of office in Ningpo.

We are requested—and are happy to accede to the request—to give the following authentic version of the affair mentioned in our paragraph of Saturday respecting the alleged correspondence of the British Consul with the Tao-tai with regard to the landing of the troops at Woosung. We are informed that the Admiral never consulted Mr. M. d'urst, about giving his men a run on shore: he only proposed to drill them opposite the ship: and when he consulted the Consul, that gentleman did not reply that the permission of the Tao-tai was a sine qua non. On the contrary he deprecated any application for permission, on the ground that it would certainly be denied. A notification to the Tao-tai, however, was recommended by the Consul as a mere act of courtesy, and he undertook to give it; whereupon several frivolous objections were raised, amongst others, a risk of collision with the troops at the forts. Mr. M. d'urst replied that the Tao-tai might have saved himself the trouble of making any difficulty, as the plot of land on which the drill was proposed to be held was foreign-owned. Our readers are thus able to gauge the difference between the account we gave on Saturday, and the above. With reference to the former, we may remark that the affair was mentioned publicly, as we printed it, in the presence of several hearers, as the latter—although we were mistaken in a minor detail, we cannot but consider the refutation we made on Saturday fully justified. We passed those reflections with reluctance, and now confirm them with increased regret. On the basis of the statement which we publish to-day, and which we accept as truthful in every particular, it is impossible to come to any other conclusion than that the Consul's policy was a mistaken one. He acted weakly, and weakness in dealing the Chinese is one of the greatest mistakes which an official can commit.

Sir Thomas Wade was expected to arrive in Tientsin on the 2nd instant.

It is said among well-informed Chinese that the new Fan-tai of Kweichow is utterly incapable of filling the office to which he has been appointed, and that it is only out of respect for his patron, Li Hung-chang, that he is permitted to retain the seals.

We hear that the Anna-qua has been virtually settled. The official formalities have not been gone through as yet, but the affair may be considered at an end. We can only trust that our own difficulties may be similarly overcome; and, we may add, that the lesson taught by the representatives of Germany, not entirely thrown away. We have not heard any further particulars.

Arrivals of new silk are now about 2,000 bales, and it is expected that fully 3,000 bales will have been brought down before

next mail leaves. No purchases have been reported by foreigners this week, although natives affirm that Tls. 350 or about 160 per lb. has been offered and refused for Blue Elephant, this crop being worth in London 14/5 to 15/1. The Brokers are asking Tls. 10 to Tls. 15 over opening rates and say, as usual, that prices in the country have gone up twice that amount. It seems probable that the export for the season will not exceed 65,000 bales, or perhaps, the crop may be 10 per cent less than it was last year, though this will depend upon how the second hatching turns out.

The hurried preparations for war made by the Chinese Government during the Formosa embroilie resulted, in many instances, as might have been expected, in very bad bargains. Some of the rifles—falsely so called—then bought up by the ignorant mandarins have lately been inspected by Ting Jih-chang, and the disclosures are said to be almost ludicrous. These formidable weapons are pronounced by experts to be of no value except as old iron. Many of them are ancient French guns bearing the date of 1822; but since they have undergone two transformations, first rifled—after a fashion—and then made into breech-loaders, by the addition of a hinge like a snuff-box. Others of the same description have been changed from hilt-blades into percussions. These guns were purchasable currently at about ten francs apiece in France, and we are told that the French Government sold a good number of them to the potentiates on the West Coast of Africa.

CHINKiang.

Messrs. Spencer and Wolff write on the 7th June:—Our last advices were dated the 31st ultimo, and we have now again to report much activity in this market for plain cottons. An eager demand has existed during the week for medium to good makes of 84-lbs. Grey Shirts, failing a supply of such, an extensive business has been done in other goods, and common cloths have changed hands freely, while the finest cloths have not been neglected. The bulk of the goods lately imported have been immediately forwarded to the consuming districts. We hear that stocks at all the principal marts are still light. Grey Shirts—Tunisia heavy 9/10 to 9/12-lbs. have realized Tls. 2 5/4 per piece, and other cloths Tls. 2 3/8 a 2 40 per piece; 84-lbs. Green Dragon, Tls. 1 80 per piece; Collie Lion, Tls. 1 75 a 1 76 per piece; Crown, Tls. 1 75 per piece; Red Pheasant, Tls. 1 71 a 1 75 per piece; common, Tls. 1 60 a 1 60 per piece. T-Clothes.—There is very little enquiry for these goods, quotations remain last given: ordinary 7-lbs. Mexican, Tls. 1 28 a 1 32 per piece, Sinaloa—Rather quiet sales during the week insignificant at Tls. 8.80 for best, and Tls. 3 30 a 3 40 for common. Malwa Opium—Good to best, both old and new, much wanted at Tls. 438 a 438 per pound; medium, Tls. 428 a 430 per pound; inferior almost unsaleable.

SOCHEOW.

The "tail" mania is still alive and active. It was reported that the nephew of one of the highest officials had his queue cut off in the Yamen.—A proclamation has been placed in each temple and inn, but the orders are that no persons of strange words and dress shall pass the night. The police every night search the taverns and opium-shops, or are supposed to do it.

When the Viceroy passed here, it is said 7,000 opium dens were closed for one day. The shops are all ordered to be closed after the 15th of this month; they will be allowed to sell opium in the front room, but "No smoking" within. Of course, the reformation of public morals will be temporary.

Those who make excursions in the country from Shanghai like to know every point of interest to be visited. The nearest hill to this city is the Wang-shan. The nearest town outside the South-west gate is Wang-dang. From this there is a large road built for the Emperor Kien-lung running to the hill, but it is nearer for boats to go to a little stone village at the south of the hill.

Some time ago, visiting on the west side of the hill, the place where the ancient tomb was discovered but which was closed up, we saw a beautiful lake of pure clear water, winding two hundred yards between the rocky cliffs where stone had been quarried for centuries. Since then the lake is found to be a spring with a fine stream running down the hill sides. As there had been scarcely any rain for a month, this must be continuous.—N. C. D. News.

WUCHING.

A fire broke out here last Thursday afternoon, in one of our most crowded thoroughfares. Happening to be in the neighbourhood at the time, I send you a few notes which may not be uninteresting to those of your readers who have not witnessed a fire in a Chinese city. No sooner had the first cloud of smoke burst from the upper storey of the house in which it originated, than the alarm was sounded, and almost instantly the first fire brigade appeared on the scene. Not a moment had been lost in coming to the rescue. One would hardly have credited that the twenty or thirty men composing each brigade could have assembled at the head-quarters of the corps, donned their uniform, carried out their engines, buckets, pipes, ladders, &c., and have appeared, with banners flying and gongs beating, in so short a time. Brigade after brigade, in distinct uniform, came rushing on in rapid succession, and had there been sufficient room to work all the engines, the fire might have been put out in a very short time. But the streets were so narrow and so crowded, that only a few of the engines could be got forward, and in the eagerness and rivalry of each company to obtain a vantage ground, collisions were inevitable. Several engines were dashed into each other, water coolies were knocked over, buckets and all; several men received bruises on the head and legs, and the water intended for the fire was in the general mêlée poured out into the street. The courage and dash of the firemen were beyond all praise. The men worked the pumps most vigorously. The hook and ladder men cleared the mat coverings from the street, and exposed themselves to great danger from falling beams and showers of tiles.

The confusion and uproar, however, was something indescribable. Every one was shouting a different order; and loud above the crackling of timbers and the roar of the flames rose the deafening clangor of the multitude, and the incessant din of gongs as if leading an army to battle. By and by some military mandarins appeared on the scene, and quickly restored order. Detachments of troops cleared the streets of spectators, the different fire brigades were better

distributed, and within two hours the fire was extinguished; but not before it had completely destroyed over twenty shops and as many houses.

The fire engines were nearly all of the primitive Chinese bathtub model, and were contrived to the scene and worked by coolies. The stream of water thrown by each was not great, and had to be directed by a man standing on the top of the tub. Not having any hose attached, it was necessary that each engine should be brought up close to the fire; and unless this could be done the engine was comparatively useless. Only one foreign fire engine with hose was on the ground, and that did as much service as any half dozen of the native ones. The Chinese are only beginning to appreciate the value of our appliances in this as in other departments, but an innovation has been made, and a revolution may not be far off.

Some English sailors from the gunboat in Hankow happened to be in the city at the time the fire broke out, visiting a gentleman who possessed an American Fire Extincteur. With this they were able to render very valuable assistance. The efficiency of their engine created much astonishment among the Chinese, who imagined, in their ignorance, that it was a self-producing water machine, and evidently thought that there was some magic in the use of it.

Preparations have been going on, these days, for the proper celebration of the Dragon Boat Festival, which falls on the fifth day of the Chinese fifth month. Subscriptions have been taken up from door to door for the Dragon boat, which may be seen in every roadside temple. It is made of bamboo and paper, from ten to fifteen feet long, with saloons on the upper deck, sailors rowing, and every thing complete, while the huge figurehead of a Dragon, with open jaws and rolling eyes, is very suggestive of the superstition that the Dragon boat, when carried round the neighbourhood, takes up all the malaria and noxious influences that may be in the atmosphere, and thus preserves the health of the people. After the ceremony is over, the boat is burned at the water side, and the malaria is thus supposed to be scattered to the four winds—carried out to sea; or, as some say, finds its way to Yang-chow, where there is a supposed opening into the lower regions.

The custom is a very ancient as well as a very popular one, and the story of the god whose image and shrine are set up in the boat, is well known and generally believed. Kin-yung was a graduate of Kiangsi, who lived at a place where the people were dying one after another from using the poisoned water of the village well. To save the people, he conceived the idea of throwing himself into the well. No one would drink of the water after they saw the dead body of Kin-yung; and for this heroic temple were erected in his memory, he was exalted to lordship over all pestilences, and is invariably worshipped at this yearly festival.

The sword-blade leaves of the flag and the long-stalks of *mugwort*, hung out before the doors at this season, are also supposed to ward off evil influences from the home. Many Chinese also go out to gather herbs on the fifth day of the fifth month, as all herbs gathered on that day are supposed to possess a peculiar efficacy. Much as people in the west used to go into the fields on May morning, and gather flowers and hawthorn to decorate the doors and windows of the village.—N. C. D. News.

JAPAN.

(Mail.)
It is said that no Korean embassy has visited the capital for some 230 years past, the latter embassies having been received by special sanction at Na-asaki with the view of sparing them the cost of the long land journey to Yedo. It is not expected that the present Envoy will make a long stay.

We regret having to announce the death of Mr. George Wills, late Interpreter to the Judicial Court of Kangashu, which took place yesterday (May 29th).

It is rumoured that a religious service will be held at Ueno on the 7th of next month, in commemoration of those who fell in the battle at that place during the revolution.

A detachment of troops started from Osaka on the 28th ulto., for Wakayama, and, it is therefore feared that fresh troubles have arisen in that province.

The cost of re-building the temple of Monzeki at Tzukiji, Tokio, which was destroyed by fire some years ago, is estimated at 200,000*kyus*, of which 130,000*kyu* have already been subscribed by members of the Buddhist Sect.

On the 22nd instant, Admiral Ito received orders to proceed to Awomori in the *Mei* Maru and await the arrival of His Majesty the Mikado, who will then embark on board the above vessel and return in her to the capital.

The schoolmaster is certainly abroad in Japan. The study of the world's history has not been entirely neglected, nor the example set by the Emperor Charles V. thrown away. We learn from the *Nichi* *Nichi* that a man living at Hamamatsu, in Yenshiu, who must be a philosopher in his way, came to the conclusion that a funeral ceremony in the ordinary course of events was a piece of pure extravagance, as it could not gratify the person on whose behalf alone it was performed. He determined, therefore, to share in such satisfaction as his own obsequies might bestow, and accordingly summoned his friends and neighbours to partake of the funeral baked meats. They were acquainted with umbrellas many centuries before we learned the use of those convenient protectors from the heat of the sun; and, on the score of good manners, they continue to be the politest people that ever tortured their prisoners of war to death, or told falsehoods until it is a wonder their pupils do not fall off through the perpetual oscillation of their mendacious tongues.

Incontrovertible as is the theory of princely education pronounced by the Tatar Princes or the highly literate Mandarins who set up wire pullers to the illustrious puppets called Empresses Regent, it must be granted that from the point of view of modern pedagogic science the edict comes speedily to a lamentable breakdown. Neither Plato nor Pestalozzi, perchance, could have found reason to shake the head of disapprobation at the opening terms of the communication to which we have referred. But what would these distinguished precursors have thought of the insidious immediately following, by which the Imperial Board of Astronomers are commanded to select a day of fortunate augury in the full moon of the coming year during which his Imperial Majesty may commence his course of studies in the Yu King apartments of the Palace? What would Mr. Norriss Lockyer say if he received a pestilential invitation—for example, from the *ROI* *D'Yvel* or the *King* of *Brentford*—to name a "lucky day" on which the *Hirai* *Akira* might fittingly begin his initiation into the mysteries of *ABU*! We are bound, nevertheless, to bear in mind that China is an Empire whose elaborate civilisation is tempered by the rigidist conservatism; and that only a couple of centuries have passed since, in England, astronomy and astrology were convertible terms. The illustrious *Halley* was once gravely offered five shillings by a *Coit* lady to cast her horoscope.

Some seventy well-known wrestlers are expected to arrive at Tokio from Tsaks, on the 2nd inst., to take part in wrestling matches which are to be held at Shilay, Tokio, commencing on the 6th instant. It is reported that eight students have been selected from the *Kaisi* *Gakko* to be sent to England and France in order to finish their education in those countries.

It is expected that the *Corseans* will shortly pay a visit to the General Post Office at Tokio, and inspect that establishment.

They have also expressed a desire to witness the working of the Fire Brigades at the capital, and in consequence a general muster of the Companies will be held at Nakasu, on the 7th inst., when the members of the Korean Embassy will be present.

The *Yamada* *Daijin* will take entire charge

of the affairs of the nation during His Majesty the Mikado's absence from the capital on his northern tour.

The *Hochi* *Shimbun* and *Nichi* *Nichi* will both send members of their staff to report the proceedings of the Imperial party on the northern journey, but special facilities for so doing do not appear to have been offered by the Government.

His Majesty the Mikado accompanied by the Empress started on his northern tour yesterday (June 2nd), his progress through the streets of the capital being witnessed by thousands of orderly spectators. The cortège consisted of about eighty carriages of all sorts and the escort of a detachment of cavalry, some 2,000 infantry and two batteries of artillery. The beautiful court robes, the variety of uniforms, the gaily caparisoned horses and the long train of carriages rendered the spectacle one well worth seeing. The line of route was kept in order by the police with apparently little or no difficulty.

A certain German merchant has given an order to a fan manufacturer in Tokio for 100,000 fans, and the order is being executed with all possible despatch.

The number of paupers applying for admission to the workhouse at Ueno increase day by day, so that the establishment cannot afford relief to all who need it.

Temporary accommodation has been provided as far as possible, and it is now in contemplation to erect more commodious permanent buildings.

A guard of ten men from the garrison patrols the streets of Osaka every night, to assist the police in preserving order among the soldiers out on leave, and judging from what we have heard of the conduct of the military towards the police and citizens of Osaka, this is an arrangement made not day too soon.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH ON CHINESE MATTERS.

A recent number of the *Pekin Gazette*, contains an announcement which will not be read without interest in this country, while by far millions of loyal Celestials it will necessarily have been received with overflowing sentiments of gratitude and joy. China is a country so supremely favoured by fortune as to be blessed with the presence of no fewer than two Empresses. These ladies are but dowagers, it is true, governing, or supposed to govern, the Flower Land during the minority of the young Emperor; but there is an amorous essence of divinity which doth hedge Imperialism, surpassing in favour and aroma the scent and taste of the youngest Hyson or the floweriest Peckos, and every Chinese breast, from the Canton river to the Amoor, must have swollen with pride and gratulation after perusing the edict which the *Pekin Gazette* of the 8th of January last signed as was that document or purport as it did to be signed, by the Empress Regent, and proclaiming the important fact that the bantling Brother of the Sun and Moon and Perpetual Protector of Mankind's Projection was about to commence his education. The programme laid down for the conduct of the Imperial studies is, from beginning to end, abominable, as it did to be, in so far as it is abstractedly unexceptionable in its logical and ethical bearing. The tender years of the Emperor, it is pointed out, render it necessary that his studies should be pursued with continual progress to the end, that the results of education in the service of right may be secured, and the foundation whence good governments arise be laid straight. Fénelon, in his scheme for the tuition of the Dauphin; La Harpe, in his plan for the training of Alexander I. of Russia; nay, the exemplary *Hannah More* herself, in those "Hinis" for the instruction of the Princess Charlotte which she furnished "by desire" to the Royal Chapel at Windsor, could not have more clearly defined the chief aim and objects of the education of those who are destined to rule over a great and civilised nation. And the Chinese are, as everybody knows, intensely civilised. They were acquainted with umbrellas many centuries before we learned the use of those convenient protectors from the heat of the sun; and, on the score of good manners, they continue to be the politest people that ever tortured their prisoners of war to death, or told falsehoods until it is a wonder their pupils do not fall off through the perpetual oscillation of their mendacious tongues.



STEAM FOR

Singapore, Penang, Point de Galle, Aden, Suez, Malta, Brindisi, Ancona, Venice, Mediterranean Ports, Southampton and London.

ALSO,

Bombay, Madras and Calcutta.

THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY's Steamship *TEHERAN*, Captain JOHNSON, with Her Majesty's Mails, Passengers, Specie and Cargo, will leave this for the above places, on SATURDAY, the 17th Instant, at Noon.

CARGO will be received on board until 5 P.M.; SPECIE and PAROLES at the Office until 2 P.M. on the 16th Instant.

For particulars regarding Freight and Passage, apply at the P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Office, Hongkong.

CONTENTS AND VALUE OF PACKAGES ARE REQUIRED.

A written declaration of the Contents and Value of the Packages for the Overland Route is required by the Egyptian Government, and must be delivered by the Shippers to the Company's Agents with the Bills of Lading or with Parcels; and the Company do not hold themselves responsible for any detention or prejudice which may happen from incorrectness on such declaration.

Shippers are particularly requested to note the terms and conditions of the Company's Black Bills of Lading.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co. reserve the option of forwarding all Goods shipped by their Steamers for Europe through Egypt, either by Rail, or by Canal in the hands of our Steamers, or in vessels employed for the purpose.

A. MOYER, Superintendent, P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Office, Hongkong, June 5, 1876.

jel7

Occidental & Oriental Steamship Company.

TAKING THROUGH CARGO AND PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE, IN CONNECTION WITH THE CENTRAL

and

UNION PACIFIC AND CONNECTING RAILROAD COMPANIES AND

ATLANTIC STEAMERS.

THE S. S. "BELGIC" will be despatched for San Francisco, via Yokohama, on SATURDAY, the 1st July, at 3 P.M., taking Cargo and Passengers for Japan, the United States and Europe.

Connection is made at Yokohama, with Steamers from Shanghai.

Freight will be received on Board until 4 p.m. of 30th Instant. Parcel Packages will be received at the Office until 5 p.m. same day; all Parcel Packages should be marked to address in full; value of same is required.

Return Passage Tickets available for 6 months are issued at a reduction of 20 per cent. on regular rates.

For further information as to Freight or Passage, apply to the Agency of the Company, No. 16, Praya Central, G. B. EMORY, Agent, Hongkong, June 1, 1876.

jel1

Intimations.

COSMOPOLITAN DOCKS.

THE DOCKS being now completed, are capable of DOCKING any size VESSELS frequenting this Port, and executing any REPAIRS required.

A large quantity of SPARS, LUMBER, IRON, COPPER, YELLOW METAL, &c., &c., always kept in Stock at cheap rates.

Length of Dock, 455 Feet. Breadth do, 92 " Depth of Water, Springs, 24 " do, do, Neaps, 21 "

The following Rates will be charged until further notice:—

Brockpiling, including Dookage, Shoring, Labor, Felt, Pitch, Tar and Oakum, 80 cents per Sheet.

Painting Iron Steamers, including Dookage, 2 Coats Paint and 1 Coat Tallow, 35 cents per ton Gross Register.

Painting Iron Steamers, including Dookage, 1 Coat Paint and 1 Coat Tallow, 60 cents per ton Gross Register.

For further particulars, apply to W. B. SPRATT & Co., 9, Praya East, Hongkong, April 20, 1876.

CONSULAT DE FRANCE A HONGKONG.

A N Official Communication from the French Consulate at Haiphong informs us that the exportation of Rice is TEMPORARILY AUTHORIZED in Tonquin from the 6th instant.

For the Consul, Le Chanoine Vice-Consul, G. BOULOUZE, Hongkong, June 3, 1876.

jel8

FURNITURE WAREHOUSE.

A H KING & Co. beg to inform the Public that their "Furniture Show Rooms" are now in Zetland Street, No. 2, opening into Queen's Road, next to the Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris; where they have all descriptions of ELEGANT and ENGLISH-MADE FURNITURE, necessary for completely Furnishing a Gentleman's Residence.

Also, CHINESE and JAPANESE CURIOS, FINEST EBONY-CARVED TABLES and CHAIRS of every kind may be had on reasonable terms.

Hongkong, May 11, 1876.

bo12

Insurances.

QUEEN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned are prepared to grant Policies against FIRE to the extent of \$45,000 on Buildings, or on Goods stored therein, at current local rates, subject to a Discount of 20% on the Premium.

NORTON & Co., Agents, Hongkong, January 1, 1874.

YANG-TSZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF SHANGHAI.

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS, 600,000 TALES

POLICIES granted on Marine Risk to all parts of the world at current rates.

This Association will, until further notice, provide out of the earnings, first for an Interest Dividend of 15% to Shareholders on Capital, and thereafter distributed among Policy holders, annually, in cash, ALL THE PROFITS of the Underwriting Business pro rata to amount of premium contributed.

RUSSELL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, July 9, 1874.

CONTENTS AND VALUE OF PACKAGES ARE REQUIRED.

A written declaration of the Contents and Value of the Packages for the Overland Route is required by the Egyptian Government, and must be delivered by the Shippers to the Company's Agents with the Bills of Lading or with Parcels; and the Company do not hold themselves responsible for any detention or prejudice which may happen from incorrectness on such declaration.

Shippers are particularly requested to note the terms and conditions of the Company's Black Bills of Lading.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co. reserve the option of forwarding all Goods shipped by their Steamers for Europe through Egypt, either by Rail, or by Canal in the hands of our Steamers, or in vessels employed for the purpose.

A. MOYER, Superintendent, P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Office, Hongkong, June 5, 1876.

jel7

NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Incorporated by Royal Charter and Special Acts of Parliament.

ESTABLISHED 1809.

CAPITAL £2,000,000.

THE Undersigned are prepared to grant Policies against the Risk of FIRE on Buildings or on Goods stored therein, on Goods in Markets; on Goods on board Vessels and on Hulls of Vessels in Harbour, at the usual Terms and Condition.

Proposals for Life Insurances will be received, and transmitted to the Directors for their decision.

If required, protection will be granted on first class Lives up to £1,000 on a Single Life.

For Rates of Premiums, forms of proposals or any other information, apply to

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co., Agents Hongkong & Canton.

Hongkong, January 4, 1874.

jel7

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.

AGENCIES at all the Treaty Ports of China and Japan, and at Singapore, Balgoi and Penang.

Risks accepted, and Policies of Insurance granted at the rates of Premium current at the above mentioned Ports.

NO CHARGE FOR POLICY FEES.

JAS. B. COUGHTRIE, Secretary, Hongkong, November 1, 1874.

jel7

MANCHESTER FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF MANCHESTER AND LONDON.

THE Undersigned have been appointed Agents for the above Company at Hongkong, Canton, Foochow, Shanghai and Hankow, and are prepared to grant Insurances at current rates.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co., Hongkong, October 14, 1868.

jel1

THE LONDON ASSURANCE.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER of His Majesty King George The First, A. D. 1720.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Corporation are prepared to grant Insurances as follows:—

Marine Department.

Policies at current rates payable either here, in London or at the principal Ports of India, China and Australia.

Fire Department.

Policies issued for long or short periods at current rates. A discount of 20% allowed.

Life Department.

Policies issued for sums not exceeding £5,000 on reasonable terms.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co., Hongkong, July 25, 1872.

jel7

CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY, (LIMITED.)

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Corporation are prepared to grant Insurances as follows:—

Marine Department.

Policies at current rates payable either here, in London or at the principal Ports of India, China and Australia.

Fire Department.

Policies issued for long or short periods at current rates. A discount of 20% allowed.

Life Department.

Policies issued for sums not exceeding £5,000 on reasonable terms.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co., Hongkong, July 25, 1872.

jel7

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, (LIMITED.)

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Corporation are prepared to grant Insurances as follows:—

Marine Department.

Policies at current rates payable either here, in London or at the principal Ports of India, China and Australia.

Fire Department.

Policies issued for long or short periods at current rates. A discount of 20% allowed.

Life Department.

Policies issued for sums not exceeding £5,000 on reasonable terms.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co., Hongkong, June 3, 1874.

jel7

MANCHESTER FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned Agents are in receipt of instructions from the Board of Directors authorizing them to issue Policies to the extent of £10,000 on any one first class risk, or to the extent of £15,000 on adjoining risks at current rates.

Also, CHINESE and JAPANESE CURIOS, FINEST EBONY-CARVED TABLES and CHAIRS of every kind may be had on reasonable terms.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co., Hongkong, May 11, 1876.

jel7

Insurances.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN INSURANCE COMPANY, ADELAIDE.

CAPITAL, £500,000.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company in Hongkong, China and Japan, are prepared to issue Policies of Marine Insurance, payable in Australia, London, Calcutta, Bombay, Mauritius, China and Japan at current rates.

ADAMSON, BELL & Co., Hongkong, September 6, 1875.

jel1

THE SCOTTISH IMPERIAL INSURANCE CO.

THE above granite floored Dock is 400 feet long, 56 feet wide at entrance, and has 13 feet of water on the sill, at average neap, and 17 feet at average spring tides. The Dock is fitted with caissons gate, and is pumped out by steam.

The Workshops comprise Foundry for iron and brass castings, Machine Shop, which contains screw-cutting and small lathes, Drilling and Screw-making Machine, &c.; Blacksmith's and Carpenter's Shop.

A large Stock of Timber, Metals and other Dockyard materials necessary for the Repair of Iron or Wooden Steam and Sailing Vessels, always on hand.

A Steam-tug is available at all times to tow vessels at reasonable rates.

For terms and estimates, apply to

JOHN FORSTER & Co., Foochow,

or JAMES ANDERSON, Superintendent.

Foochow, May 31, 1876.

jel7

THE MERCHANTS' MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED, OF LONDON.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, £500,000.

THE Undersigned, Agents at Hongkong for the above Company, are prepared to grant Policies against FIRE, to the extent of £10,000 on any Building, or on Merchandise in the same, at the usual Rates, subject to a discount of 20 per cent.

GILMAN & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, July 6, 1875.

jel7

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned, Agents for the above Company, are prepared to grant Insurance at current rates.

MELCHERS & Co., Agents, Royal Insurance Company.

Hongkong, September 27, 1875.

jel7

THE UNDEMENTIONED LAND and BUILDINGS.

AT HONGKONG.—

INLAND Lot 82.—The well-known House and Offices lately occupied by Messrs. A. HEARD & Co., adjoining the Cathedral Compound.

The Ground below the masonry retaining wall of the above abutting on the Queen's Road.

Annual Crown Rent, \$390.48.